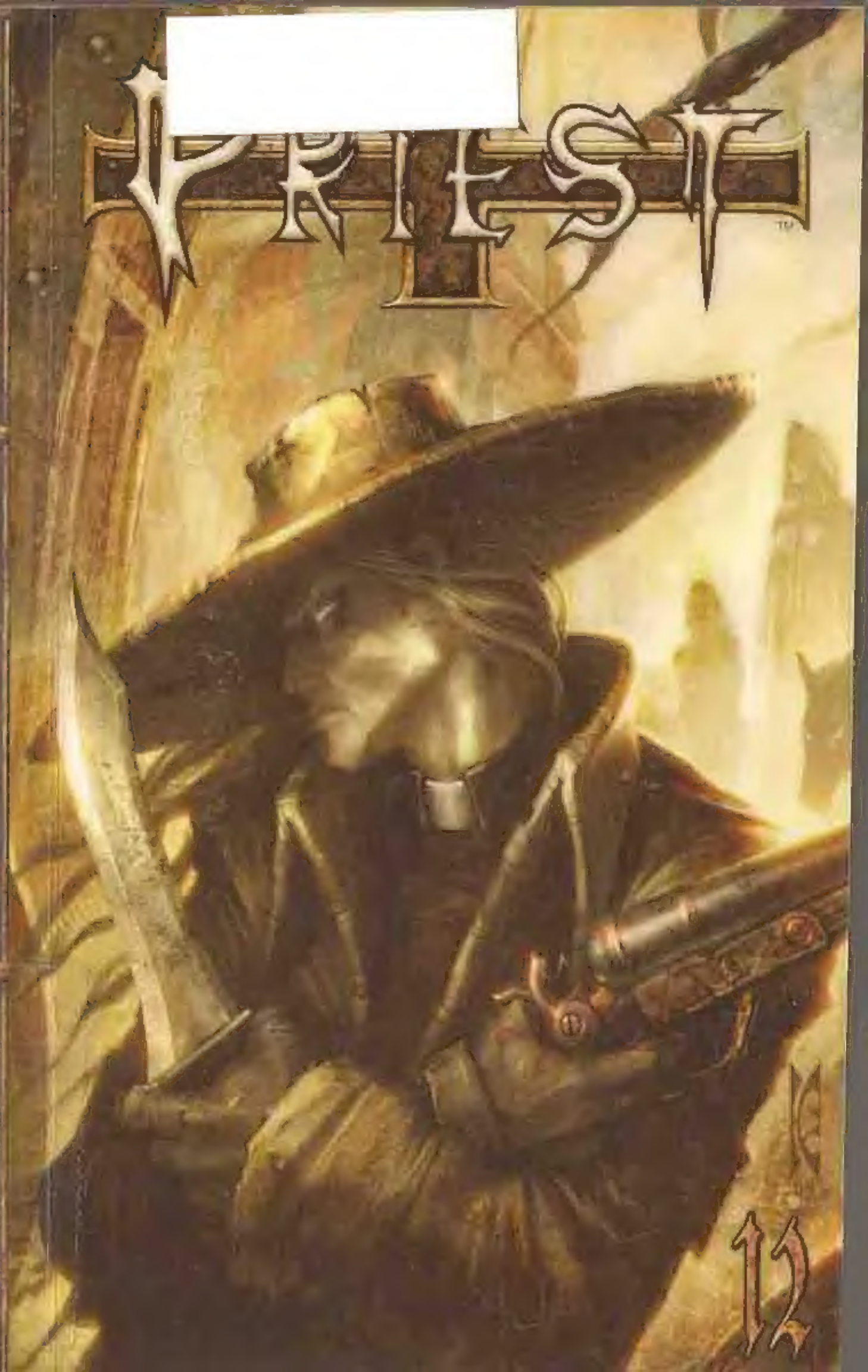
PRIEST



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PRIEST

VOLUME 12

BY

MIN-WOO HYUNG

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES · TOKYO · LONDON · HAMBURG

THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

PRIEST II

During the war against Lucifer, the archangel Temozarela led the agents of light. In the years that followed, Temozarela watched as God's attention shifted from his seraphim to his new creation—man. Jealousy caused Temozarela and his disciples to abandon their heavenly post and attempt to corrupt humanity to prove the superiority of the seraphim to God. During the Crusades he attempted to begin his plan, but Belial sealed him in the Domas Porada for 500 years. Now, released by Ivan Isaacs, Temozarela is free again, but too weak to carry out his dark designs. His disciples have begun sanctifying the ground in the American West, spreading plague and death in preparation for the Unholy Sabbath.

TEMOZARELA

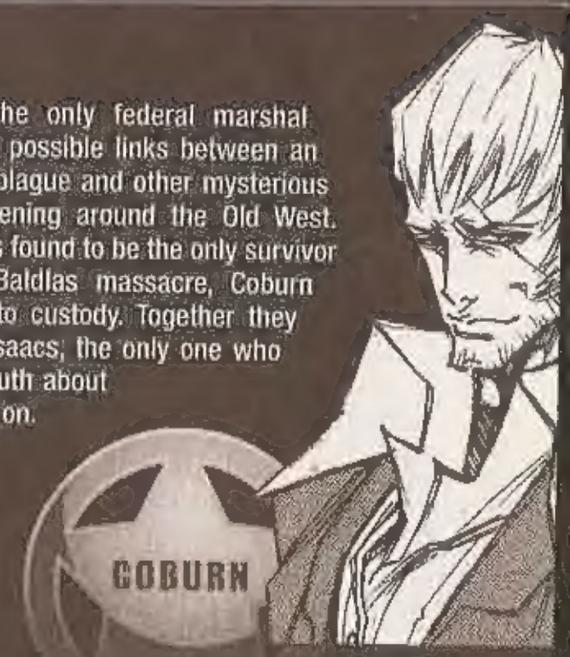
FATHER IVAN ISSACS

Ivan Isaacs was a young priest with a passion for ancient cultures when he was recruited to study the Domas Porada. Little did he know that this mission would be his last—at least his last in life. After helping revive an ancient battle for Heaven and Earth, Ivan and his beloved Gena were slain. In order to get revenge and atone for endangering the world, Ivan made a pact with the devil Belial: his soul in exchange for a second chance at life ... and superhuman strength. Now Ivan wanders the Old West, hunting down Temozarela's disciples and keeping a journal of his tragic tale.

The devil Belial makes Ivan his agent in the mortal world so that he may battle the agents of the fallen archangel Temozarela, who is planning an upheaval of Heaven and Hell. Belial used to be Betheal, a Catholic priest in the Middle Ages when he was a prosecutor in trials of heresy. After Temozarela shattered his faith, Betheal turned himself into the demon Belial in order to get his revenge.

BELIAL

Coburn is the only federal marshal investigating possible links between an outbreak of plague and other mysterious events happening around the Old West. After Lizzie is found to be the only survivor of the St. Baldlas massacre, Coburn takes her into custody. Together they follow Ivan Isaacs, the only one who knows the truth about what's going on.



Lizzie inherited leadership of the Angel Gang from her father. She's loved by her men, and feared by everyone else. She has more of a conscience than some of her fellow outlaws, but her hands are not clean of blood. Her rational world was shattered when her path crossed that of Ivan Isaacs. Now trouble seems to be her only friend. A hanging, a lynching, even a zombie curse—she just can't seem to get a break these days. During the St. Baldlas massacre, she was bitten by one of Temozarela's zombies and her blood now bears his curse.

Coburn's Posse

With the West filled with outlaws, corrupt lawmen and superstitious townsfolk, these companions are the only ones Coburn trusts. Father Lucian is a Vatican envoy sent to investigate what happened at Stonetale Abbey. Novic is a Civil War veteran and mute who aids Coburn with his heavy Gatling gun. In our last volume, Cairo, Coburn's tracker and longtime friend, was slain by an agent of St. Vertinez.

ORDER OF ST. VERTINEZ

Also known as "Michael's Sword," this holy shadow society takes care of the dirty work that the Vatcian would like to keep hidden. Several years ago it was agents of this order who were responsible (along with a coerced Ivan) for unleashing Temozarela. Now their agents have returned to clean up the mess and see Temozarela's horrors remain secret. But an agency as clouded in mystery as this one is sure to hold a few secrets of its own...

THE STORY SO FAR...

The American West is awash with the blood of innocents and damned alike. Temozarela, fallen angel and would-be antichrist, uses his disciples to sanctify the land for his reign. The Vatican, in its self-righteous folly, has sent the secret order of St. Vertinez to try and stop Temozarela's plans and, more important, to exonerate the church of its role in Temozarela's release. Meanwhile, Federal Marshal Coburn is piecing together the puzzle. A pragmatist, he's determined to see this plague ended and the offenders brought to justice. Let us not forget Lizzie; once Coburn's key witness and reluctant partner, she is now on a mission of her own—to track down Ivan Isaacs and make him end her curse by whatever means necessary.

And what of our most unlikely hero, Ivan? Forsaken by both God and His sworn enemies, Ivan is a pilgrim of Man, an avatar of the destructive desires that God has endowed his creations with. He walks the circle preordained by Temozarela. But does Ivan truly have free will, or is he merely a puppet for Belial?

PRIEST

12

A CHOIR OF WOLVES

SO IT'S NOT A DISEASE, BUT A CURSE...

THEN IT IS *GOD* WHO TAKES MY SON FROM ME.

NO, NOT GOD.

THE ONE WHO SPREAD THIS CURSE...

...IS A HUMAN BEING.

GIVE ME HIS NAME.

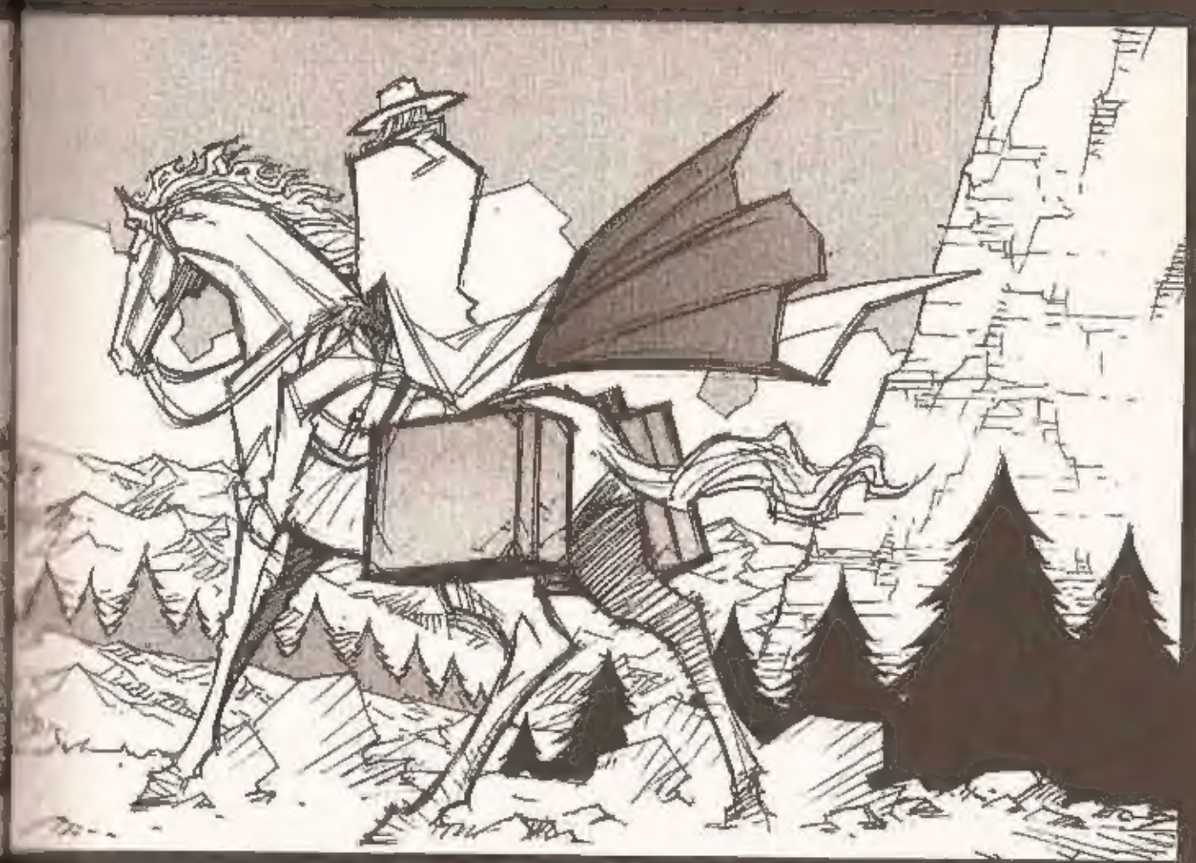
I'LL MAKE HIM SUFFER WHAT ALONZO SUFFERED, SO HELP ME GOD!!

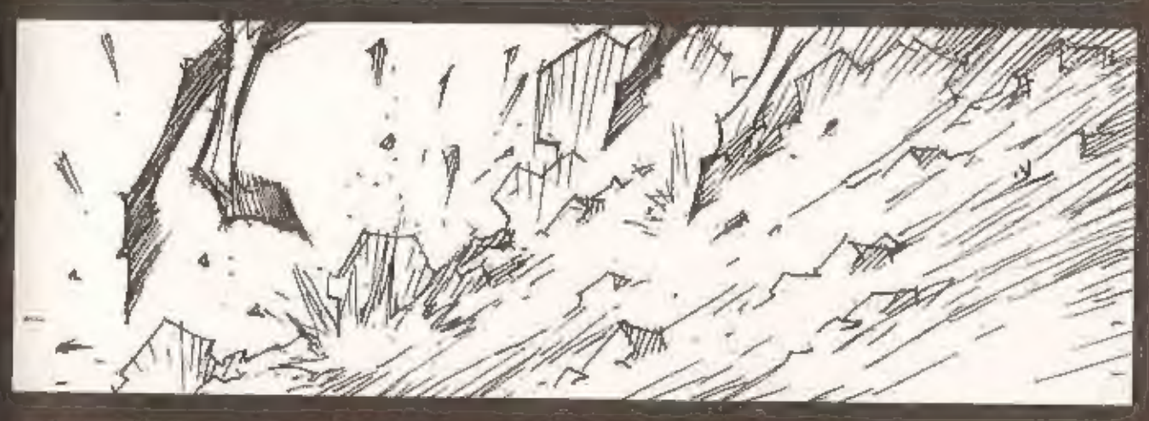
ALL RIGHT.

ON ONE CONDITION.

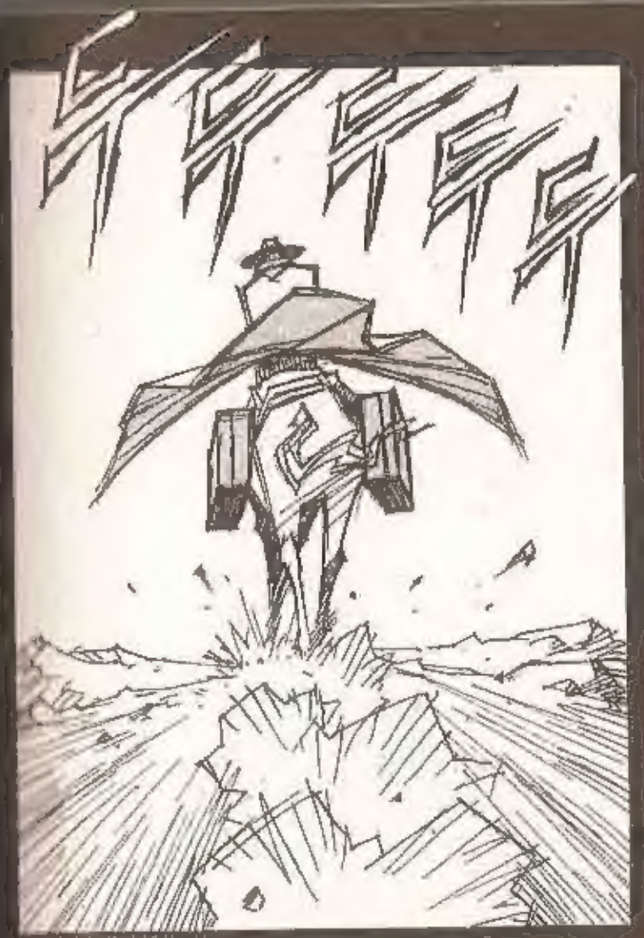
YOU'LL TAKE ME WITH YOU...

...TO CATCH HIM!!



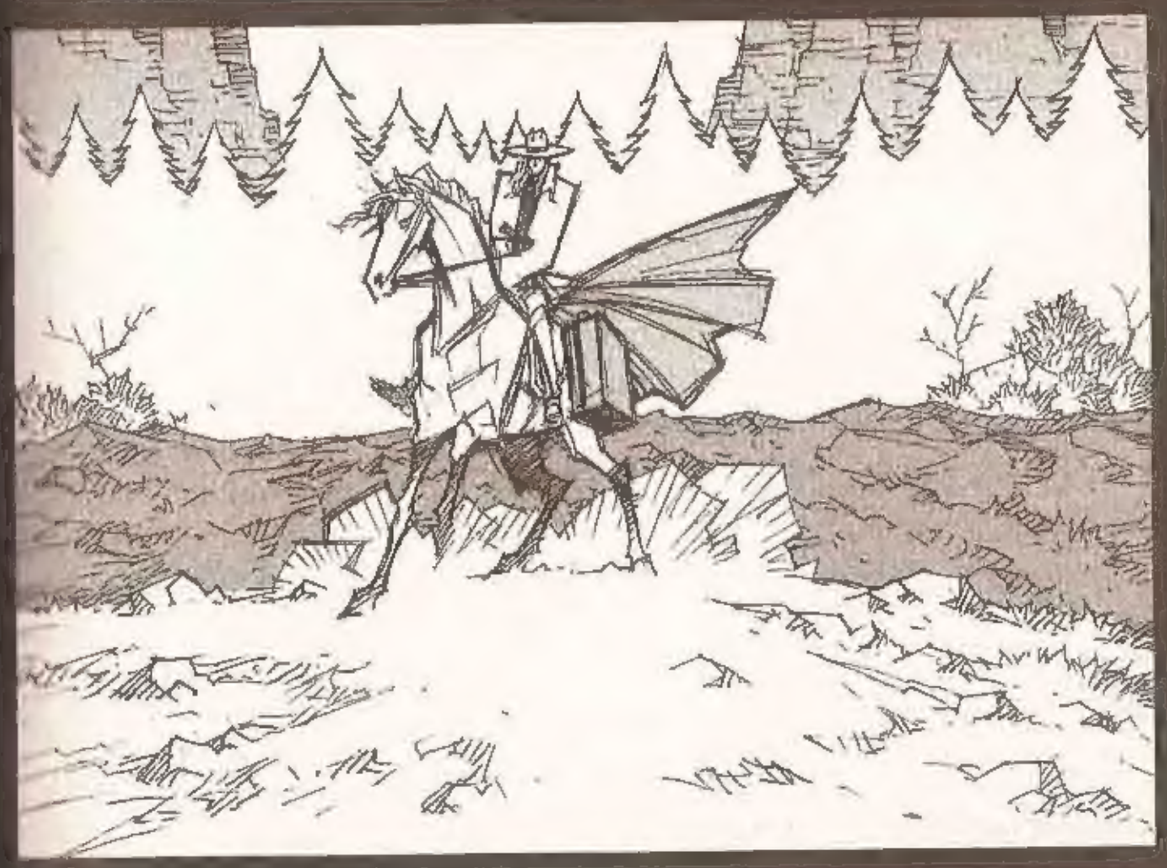


"IF YOU WANT YOUR GENA...
...I'LL BE YOUR GENA!!"



!

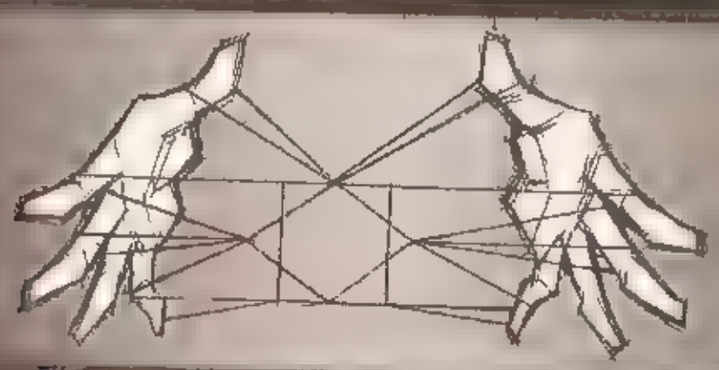
NEIGH!



TAK!

GRRRR...

GRARR!!



MY MY

OPEN YOUR EYES.

RYAN!

PILGRIM OF THE SANCTUARY,
TURN BACK NOW.

TURN BACK.

NEIGH!

HEH HEH HEH

THIS IS A HOLY PLACE, PROTECTED BY ILLUSORY WALLS.

WALLS THAT INSTILL FEAR IN BOTH THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

IN OTHER WORDS

TEMOZAPELA'S EVANGELISM HAS ALREADY HAD ITS RUN HERE

PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE!

WHAT THESE WALLS SEEK IS TO KEEP OUT...

...IS NOT YOU, IVAN...

...BUT THE BAPTISM OF BLOOD.

SHE'S TRYING TO PROTECT THIS PLACE FROM HIS CORRUPTION. THIS PLACE CALLED WINDTALE.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BENDO.

NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

NOTHING.

!

TAT!

TAT!

NERA!

NERA!

NERA!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

NERA...?

NE--

SQUISH

BENDO!

AH HA HA HA!

BENDO!

HEY, BOY!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH NERA.

DANA, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU IF THIS WASN'T BENDO?

NERA!!

DID YOU GO UP THERE AGAIN?

OF COURSE I DID.

I AM THE GUARDIAN SAINT OF WINDTALE, REMEMBER?

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS FOR ME!

I WAS BORN TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE I LOVE!

HUFF HUFF!

HENRY, WHAT'S WRONG?

HUH?

HENRY?

NERA!!

NE-NERA!! SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED!

IT'S MOSH. HE'S AT IT AGAIN!

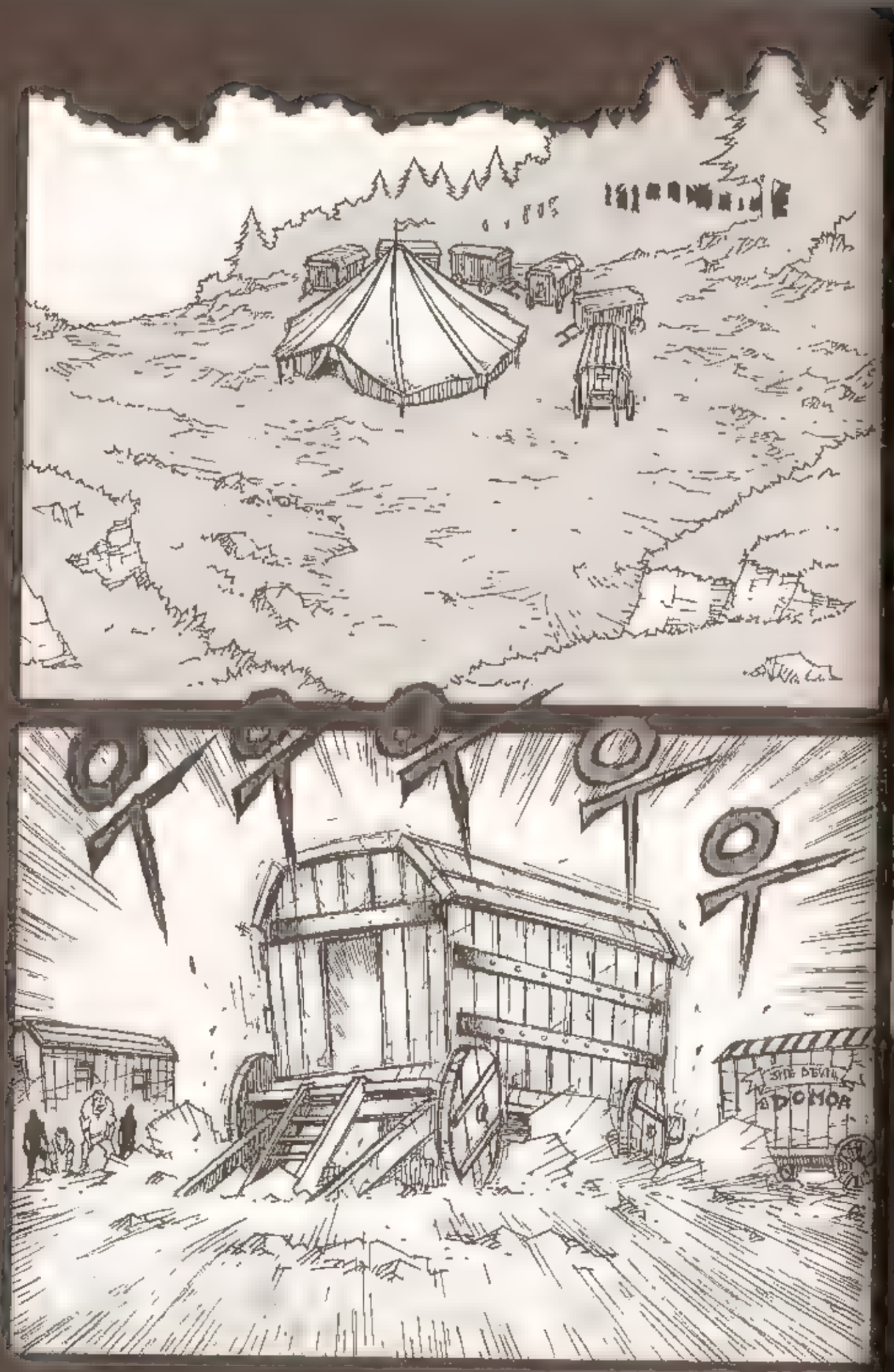
OH NO...

WHERE WAS FONDO WHEN ALL THIS BROKE OUT?

WELL.. UMM.. THAT'S JUST IT.

MOSH IS ABOUT TO EAT FONDO!

WHAT?!



WHAT DO WE DO?

MOSH MIGHT REALLY KILL FONDO THIS TIME.

WHERE DID NERA GO?

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

ARE YOU ALL GOING TO STAND THERE AND WATCH WHILE FONDO DIES?

COWARDS! WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING. ANYTHING!

AM! NO, YOU AN'T!

LET'S WAIT UNTIL NERA COMES BACK!!

YOU IDIOT!!

ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THE BLAME IF FONDO DIES?

STOP IT, BOYS!

HUFF... HUFF... SORRY I'M LATE.

BUT BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, RIGHT?

NERA!!

HA HA!

!!

WOW...

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS.

MOSH MUST BE REALLY ANGRY.

I...I DON'T KNOW WHY.

FONDO FED HIM HIS MEAL AS USUAL, BUT MOSH JUST WENT CRAZY.

HMM.

WAIT! NERA!

BE CAREFUL!

HEY, FONDO!

ARE YOU DEAD YET?

OH, NERA!

NOT YET, BUT I CAN'T HOLD OUT FOR LONG.

I'M ABOUT TO COME IN.

PLAY PACIFIER FOR JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, 'KAY?

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO KID AROUND!

CREAK

CREAK

MOSH...?

GRARR...

NERA... THANKS FOR STOPPING BY.

GRARR!!

HURRY UP AND DO SOME-THING I THINK MY ARM'S BROKEN.

EASY THERE, MOSH...

JUST RELAX. SEE HOW YOU'RE HURTING FONDO?

LET HIM GO, MOSH.

SNIFFLE SNIFFLE

THAT'S IT.

EASY NOW.

THAT'S BOY

OUCH!!

!

AH!

I FOUND IT!!

VOILA!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

NOW, MOSH...

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD SAY HELLO TO YOUR FRIEND SAM?

SNIFF...

GOOCHI-GOOCHI-GOO!

KYAA HA HA HA--

RIP

GULP.

SOUNDS LIKE SHE WORKED THINGS OUT.

YEAH... NERA'S PRETTY AMAZING.

I HOPE FONDO'S OKAY.

NE...

NERA!!

BUT NERA...

WHE...

WHERE'S FONDO?

OOFOFOF

RUN!

WHAT ABOUT FONDO?

JUST RUN FIRST!!

THAT'S FONDO'S VOICE...

NERA?!

NERA, DON'T LEAVE ME!!

OH NO!! MOSH IS COMING OUT!!

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN...

...THAN YOU F WATCHIN OVER FAMIL TODA

DEAR GOD, HELP US TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER..

...IN WINDTAL

HELP US LAUGH TOGETHER AND LIVE IN HARMONY.

OH... AND BY THE WAY, PLEASE FORGIVE MOSH...

...FOR BREAKING UNCLE FONDO'S ARM TODAY.

AMEN.

HMM.

HMM, HMM!

NERA!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STANDING THERE?

LET'S SEE NOW

I GUESS FROM THE MOMENT YOUR KNEES TOUCHED THE COLD FLOOR!

DANA, DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU?

YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR BODY WARM BEFORE GO NG TO BED

BUT I HAVEN'T COUGHED IN WEEKS AND MY BREATHING IS EVEN NOW!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME WITH THAT "I HAVEN'T COUGHED" LINE.

OUCH!

THA HUF

NERA...

YES?

REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME...

...THAT BECAUSE I'M BLIND, I'LL SEE BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T?

OF COURSE I REMEMBER.

NON-PER THAT (OR ELS' THGS AWE?!

NERA, TELL ME. I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN THEM.

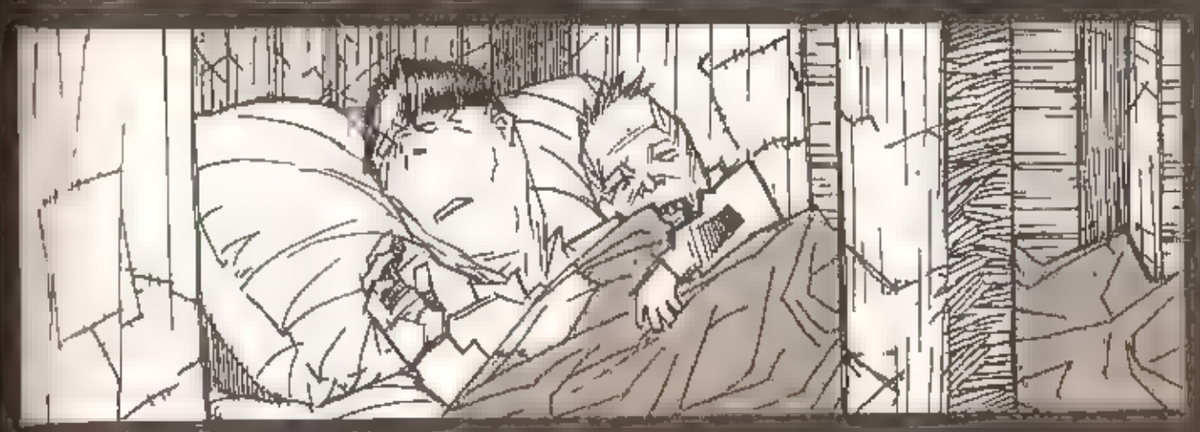
RIGHT? YOU'VE SEEN THEM, RIGHT?

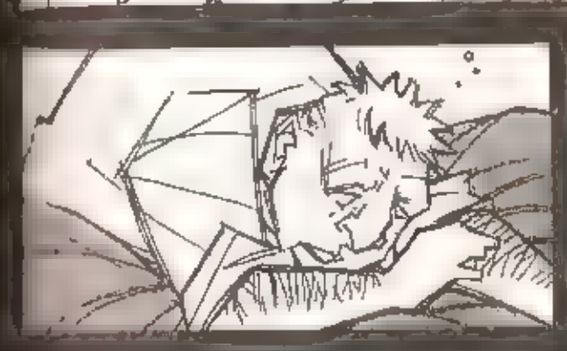
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE SEEN THEM.

I REMEMBER THEM ALL SO WELL...

YOU'LL GET TO SEE THEM TOO, DANA.

THE AWESOME BEAUTY OF LIGHT AS BREATHTAKING AS YOUR EYES





ABYSSAL DARKNESS!

THE REVOLTING STENCH ASCENDS!

THE DEAD AND THE LIVING ARE BOTH BURNING.

THE "HALF-SOUL KNIGHT" CAN FIND NO REST!!

OHO

STARS LOSE THEIR GLEAM AND PLUNGE TO EARTH.

THE FRAGRAN OF FLOWER TURNS INTO TH STENCH OF EXCREMENT SONGS OF J GIVE WAY T THE HOWLIN OF THE BEREAVED

BABA...

THEY'RE FINALLY ASLEEP. ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE THEM NIGHTMARES?

NERA!! HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DEAL WITH *HIM*?

HE'S SOLD HIS SOUL AND CHANGED HIS DESTINY!!

HE TAKES LIFE FROM THE LIVING...

...AND CURSES THE DEAD!!

HE'LL TAKE EVERYTHING THAT HAS LIFE HERE IN WINDTALE!!

THE "HALF-SOUL KNIGHT" WHO LEAVES NOTHING BUT TRAGEDY IN HIS WAKE!!

!

DON'T WORRY, BABA.

NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

WINDTALE IS THE LAST SANCTUARY FOR ME AND THOSE KIDS.

I'LL DO ANY-THING TO KEEP IT SAFE.

OH...

NERA...

MY POOR NERA...

WHAT YOU ARE FIGHTING AGAINST IS NOT THE SIMPLE FATE OF HUMAN BEINGS.

WHAT HOPE DID YOU SEE IN US THAT YOU CONCERN YOURSELF SO WITH THE FATE WITH HUMANITY?

THE NEW COURSE YOU'RE TRY-ING TO STEER FOR YOUR DESTINY WILL CAUSE YOU TO BEAR THE CROSS OF TERRIBLE SUFFERING.

I CAN'T FATHOM WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO ENDURE THAT IMMENSE PAIN ALL ON YOUR OWN.

--PLEASE, BABA...

NOT NOW. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

PLEASE... LET ME REST A WHILE LIKE THIS.

BENDO...

THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDER-STANDS THE DEPTH OF HER SORROW.

TELL ME...

...WHAT THIS PLACE HOLDS FOR HER.

I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN.

I CANNOT UNDER-STAND WHY...

HER LOVE FOR OUR LORD WAS SO EXTRA-ORDINARY.

...SHE BETRAYED THAT LOVE AND VIOLATED HIS WORD

WHY IS SHE...

...TRYING TO OPPOSE LORD TEMOZARELA?

THE GRAND PRIEST ARMAND

I AM A CREATURE BORN OF MY LADY WILL

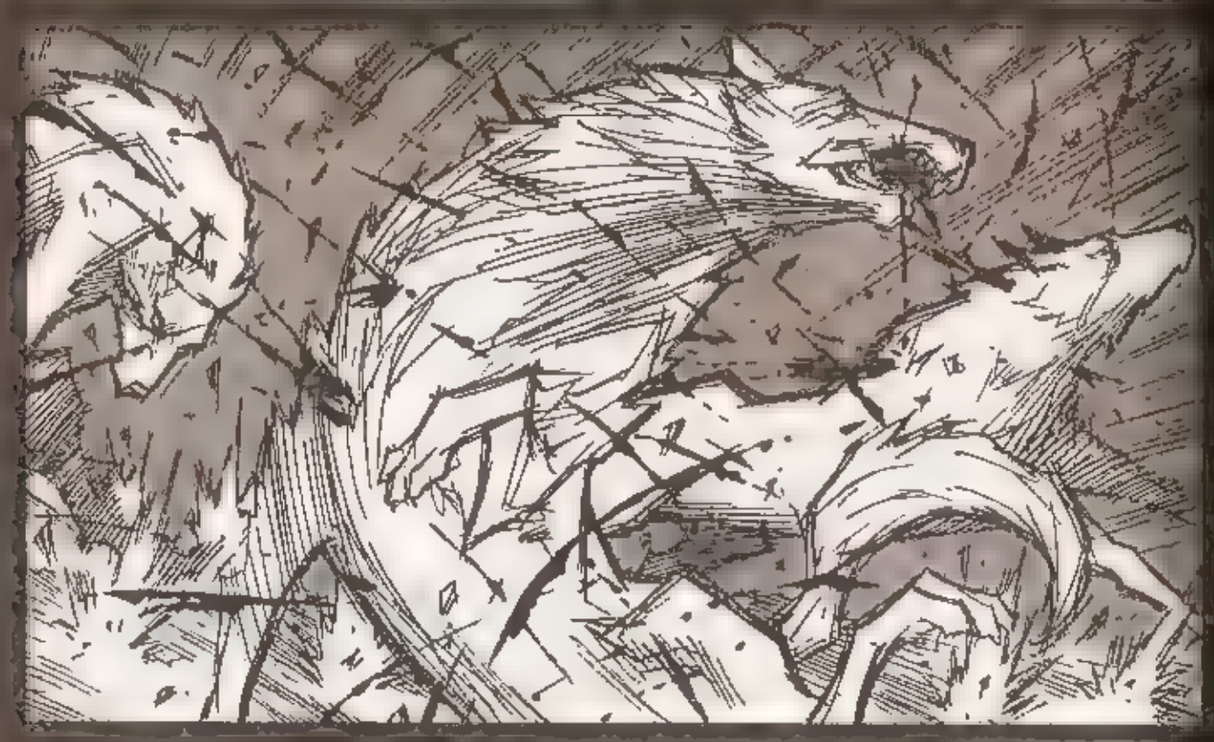
YOUR LORD TEMOZARELA AND EVEN THE WILL OF GOD HIMSELF HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MY EXISTENCE AND MY MISSION

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!



I AM A CREATURL OF MY LADY'S MAKING

A BEAST SHE BROUGHT TO LIFE

NO MATTER WHAT MY LADY CHOOSES TO DO. I DO NOT QUESTION IT.

GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM, ARMAND!

REMEMBER THAT MY FANGS EXIST IN ORDER TO SHRED TO PIECES THOSE WHO OPPOSE MY LADY.

THIS IS A WARNING TO YOU, TO YOUR LORD TEMOZARELA, TO EVEN GOD HIMSELF!

NOT QUESTION NG THE WILL OF THE CREATOR...

...IS A LUXURY OF THOSE CREATURES THE CREATOR HAS NOT YET CAST AWAY.

BENDO.

YOU NEED NOT BE WARY OF ME.

I, TOO, AM A CREATURE OF MY LORD.

I'M HERE ONLY AS THE MESSENGER. MY SOLE PREROGATIVE IS TO CONVEY HIS WISHES.

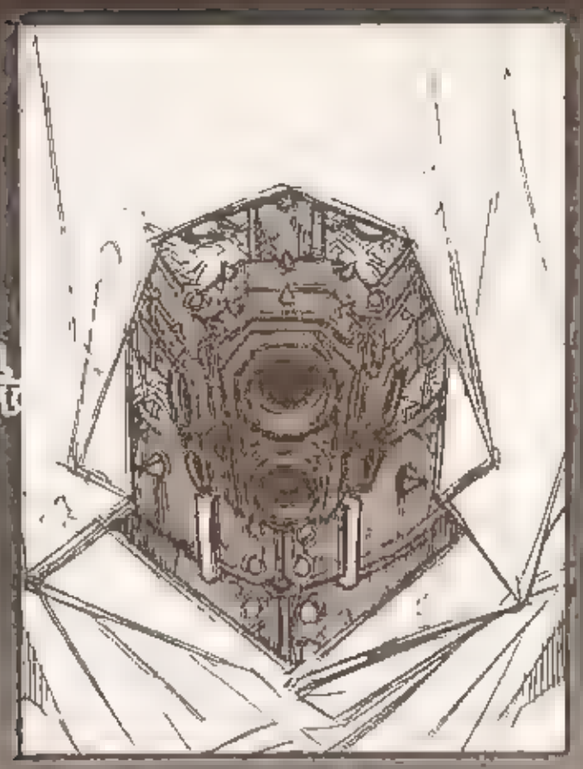
HEAR THESE WORDS, A MESSAGE FROM THE RULER OF THE SANCTUARY...

...THE ONE WHO HAS SAVED US FROM OUR LIFE OF DISGRACE AMONG HUMANS, LORD TEMOZARELA.

NETRAPHIM,
MY WARRIOR,
MY BELOVED.

RECEIVE THIS
MESSAGE THAT
I GIVE UNTO
YOUR SOUL.

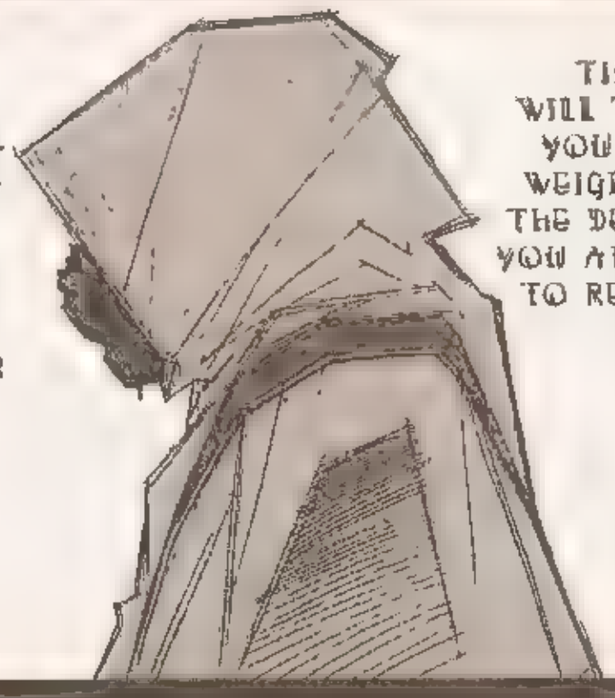
I DO NOT CONDEMN ALL YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO...



...EVEN IF YOU SEEK TO DEFY ME.

I WILL PERMIT YOU TO USE YOUR POWER TO BUILD WHAT YOU WISH TO BUILD AND DEFEND WHAT YOU WISH TO DEFEND.

BUT NEVER FORGET WHERE YOU BELONG--THE HOLIEST OF THE HOLIES AT THE HEART OF THE SANCTUARY. THE NATURE OF WHAT YOU ARE WILL NEVER CHANGE.



TIME WILL TEACH YOU THE WEIGHT OF THE DESTINY YOU ATTEMPT TO REJECT.

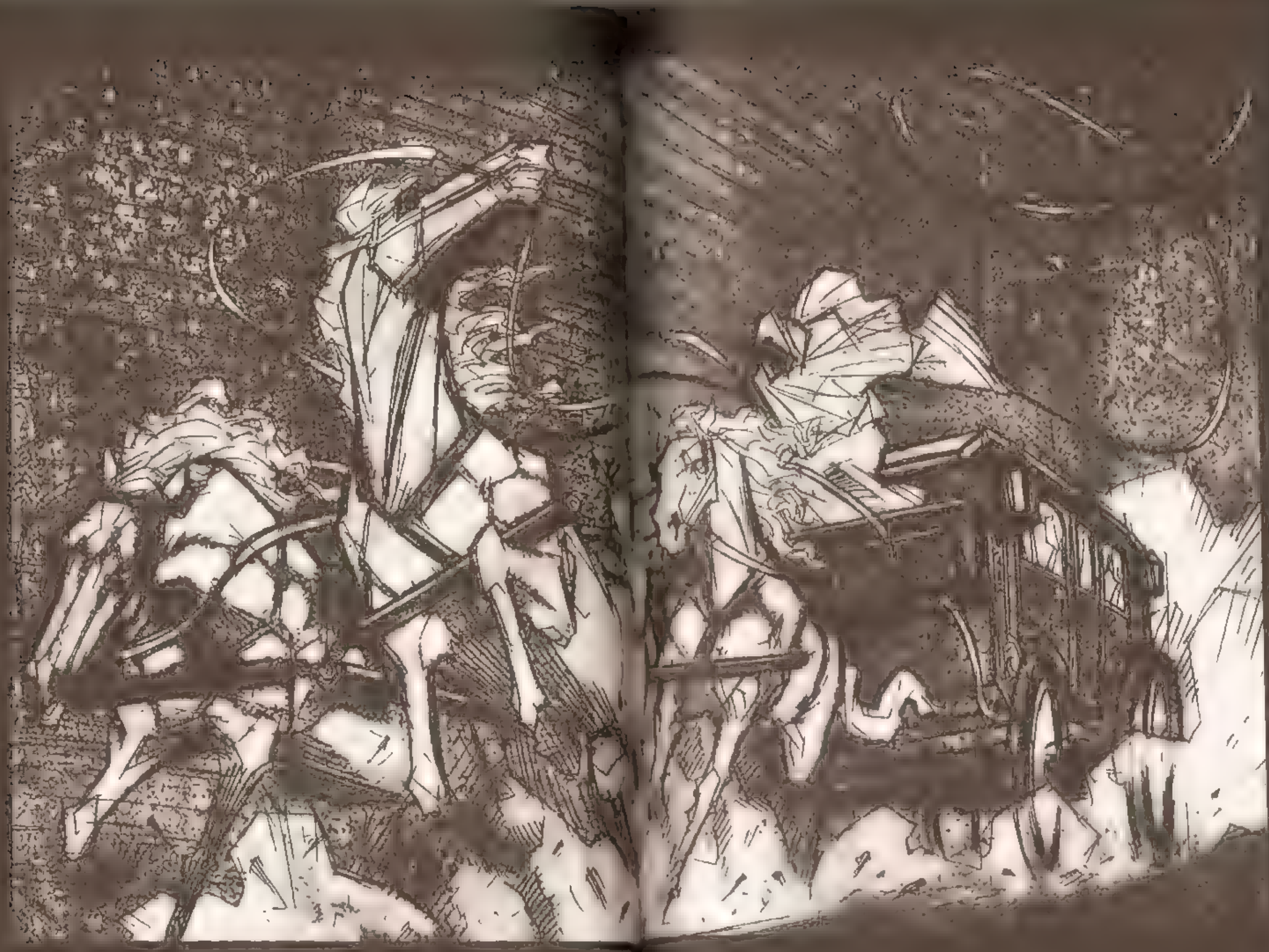
IF, ON THAT DAY, YOU STILL DO NOT REGRET YOUR DEFIANCE AGAINST ME...

BUT IF A SINGLE WORD OF REMORSE ESCAPES YOUR MOUTH...

THE CLAIM ON WHICH YOU STAKE YOUR DEFIANCE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED

YOUR EYES WILL BE FILLED WITH TEARS OF BLOOD, YOUR EARS WITH SHRIEKS OF PAIN, YOUR MOUTH WITH ABOMINABLE EXECRATIONS.

I PROMISE YOU, THE CURSE THAT YOU BRING UPON YOURSELF WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE CURSE OF GOD.



CRUNCH

HERE THEY COME.

WHINNY

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
SNORT
WHIIA^
SNORT

CLOP
CLOP
CLANG
FA... FA.. FATHER.. JO... JOSH.. JOSHUA!
BASTON.
HOW WAS IT, BROTHER?
I HOPE YOUR CHRONIC CONDITION...
...WILL NOT AFFECT THIS MISSION.
THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, FATHER.
HIS SEIZURES HAVE GROWN INFREQUENT.
THE FESTERING HAS ALSO GONE DOWN.
I DON'T THINK THERE WILL BE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIS PARTICIPATION IN THIS MISSION.
ALL THIS SHOULD MAKE YOU WALTZE...
...THE POWER OF PRAYER.
DON'T EVER FORGET THAT VICTORY BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PRAY, BASTON.

WHOO WHOOO

WHOO!!

...

WHOOOO!

TUP TUP

CHHHH...

DRAYDEN.

...ORGIO, ...NER...

MY...

...SORRY TO DRAG THE BUREAU'S TOP FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS OUT TO THE BOONDOCKS.

I TRUST YOU HAD A PLEASANT TRIP?

WHEN WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES ...

...WE FIGURED WE SHOULD SEE IT FOR OUR-SELVES.

I'D HAVE LOVED TO SEE THE LOOKS ON THE OLD TIMERS' FACES...

...WHEN THEY READ MY REPORT. I BET THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR NEWS OF MY DEATH TO COME IN AND MAKE THEIR LIVES EASIER.

...

HERE THEY ARE.

THE MILITARY MOBILIZA-TION PAPERS YOU REQUESTED.

I TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE WITH THAT ONE.

I NEVER THOUGHT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD MAKE THAT REQUEST.

BUT... WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND IS...

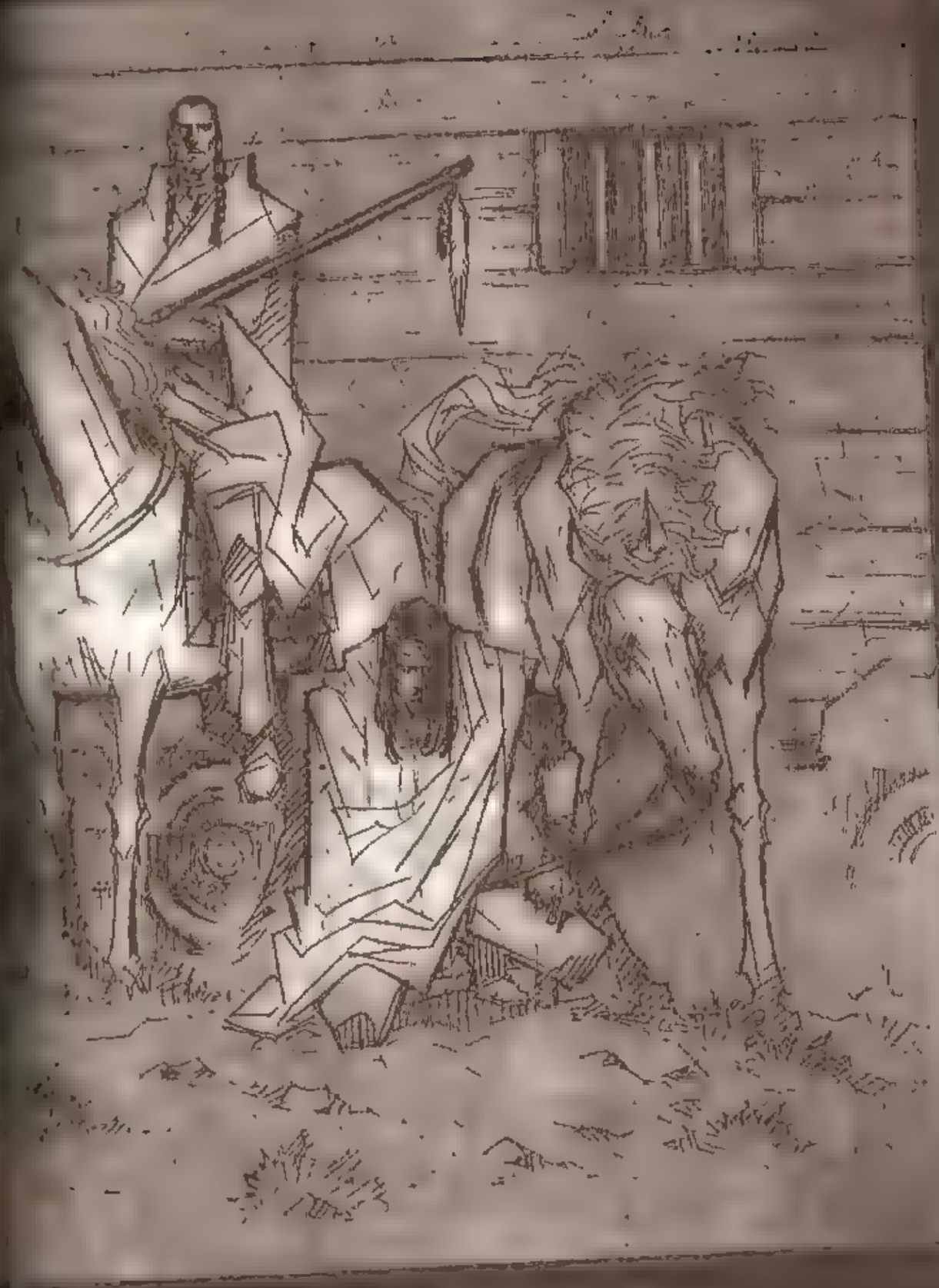
...WHY YOU CALLED THEM. DAMN FILTHY INJUNS.

CRASH!

BOOM

BOOM

NEIGH!



THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MISSION.

NOW IF YOU'LL JUST SHUT YOUR TRAP FOR A MOMENT...

...I HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THAT MAN OVER THERE...

...WHY HIS BROTHER'S DEAD.

NERA.

WAIT.

HERE'S THE LIST OF WHAT WE NEED.

CAN YOU PICK IT UP WHILE YOU'RE IN TOWN?

THIS IS EVERY-THING?

SHIT.

WE HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE PERFORM-ANCE SINCE WE SETTLED HERE. MONEY'S REAL TIGHT.

I DON'T THINK ANY-ONE WILL MIND F YOU DECIDE TO SKIP MEALS TO SAVE MONEY.

SHIT, NERA.

I'M J... JOK... YO... KNO...

BY THE WAY, NERA...

...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THEM?

ERNEST GOT ALL EXCITED...

...AND HE'S GOTTE... ROCK... EXCITE... TOO

...WHEN HE HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO TOWN...

HMM.

HEH HEH!

UMM... HI, NERA.

ERNEST, ROCKO, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME...

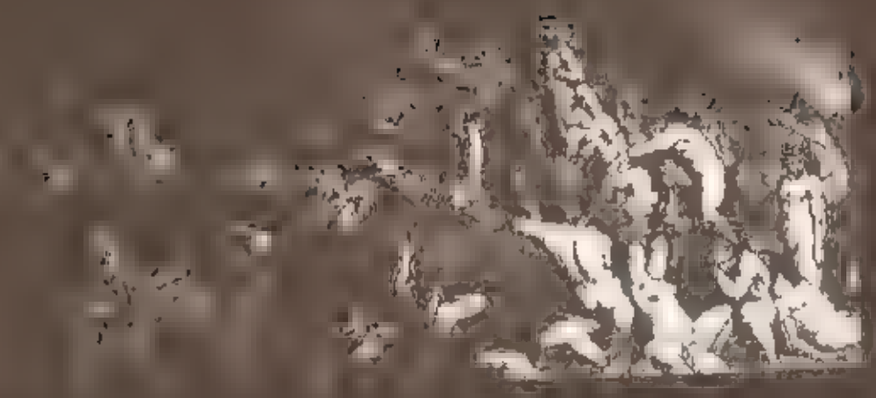
...THAT YOU WON'T LEAVE THE WAGON.

I...I PROMISE, NERA!!

DON'T DO ANYTHING TO DRAW PEOPLE'S ATTENTION, OKAY?

I KNOW, I KNOW! DID YOU HEAR THAT, ERNEST?

HUH? UH... UH...



CLONK

CLONK

CLONK

CLONK

HEH HEH.

WOW...

LISTEN, YOU TWO...

I ONLY LET YOU COME ALONG BECAUSE NERA GAVE HER OKAY

DON'T STARE AT ANYTHING OR ANYONE!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?

IT'S A WARNING, SAM.

AND PUNISHMENT FOR INTIMIDATING THEM.

OR DO I NEED TO REMIND YOU...

...WHAT THE TOWNERS THINK OF THE LIKES OF US?

I...

...I KNOW. I'M NOT STUPID, YOU KNOW.

THWACK!

OUCH !!

DON'T MIND HIM, BOYS.

IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT SOMETHING, GO RIGHT AHEAD.

HEH HEH.

TIM'S GOODS

LOO... LOOK...

$40.00

LOOK HOW NICE THEY ARE, ERNEST!

THEY LOOK TOO BIG FOR YOU.

NO THEY'RE NOT, STUPID!!

GO AHEAD.

BUT DON' STRA TOO FAR OKAY

AH!

OF COURSE, NERA!!

HA HA.

OKAY, THEN.

!

...

NERA!!

!

AH, I'M SORRY!

WHA... WHAT DID YOU SAY?

YOU WANT TO BUY SOME-THING FOR MOSH?

I WONDER IF I'M GOING...

GUESS I LET MY MIND WANDER. SORRY... HA HA!

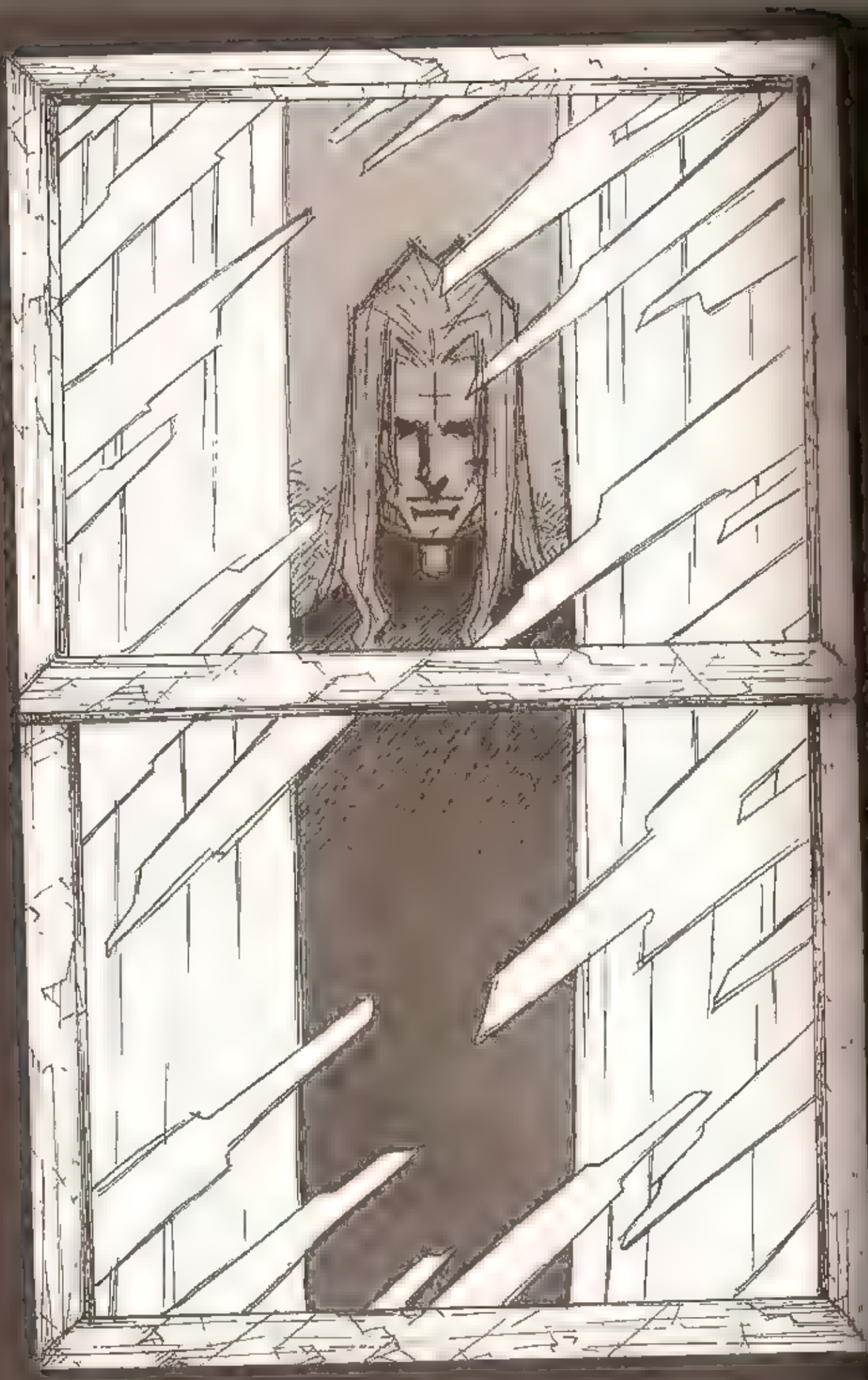
?

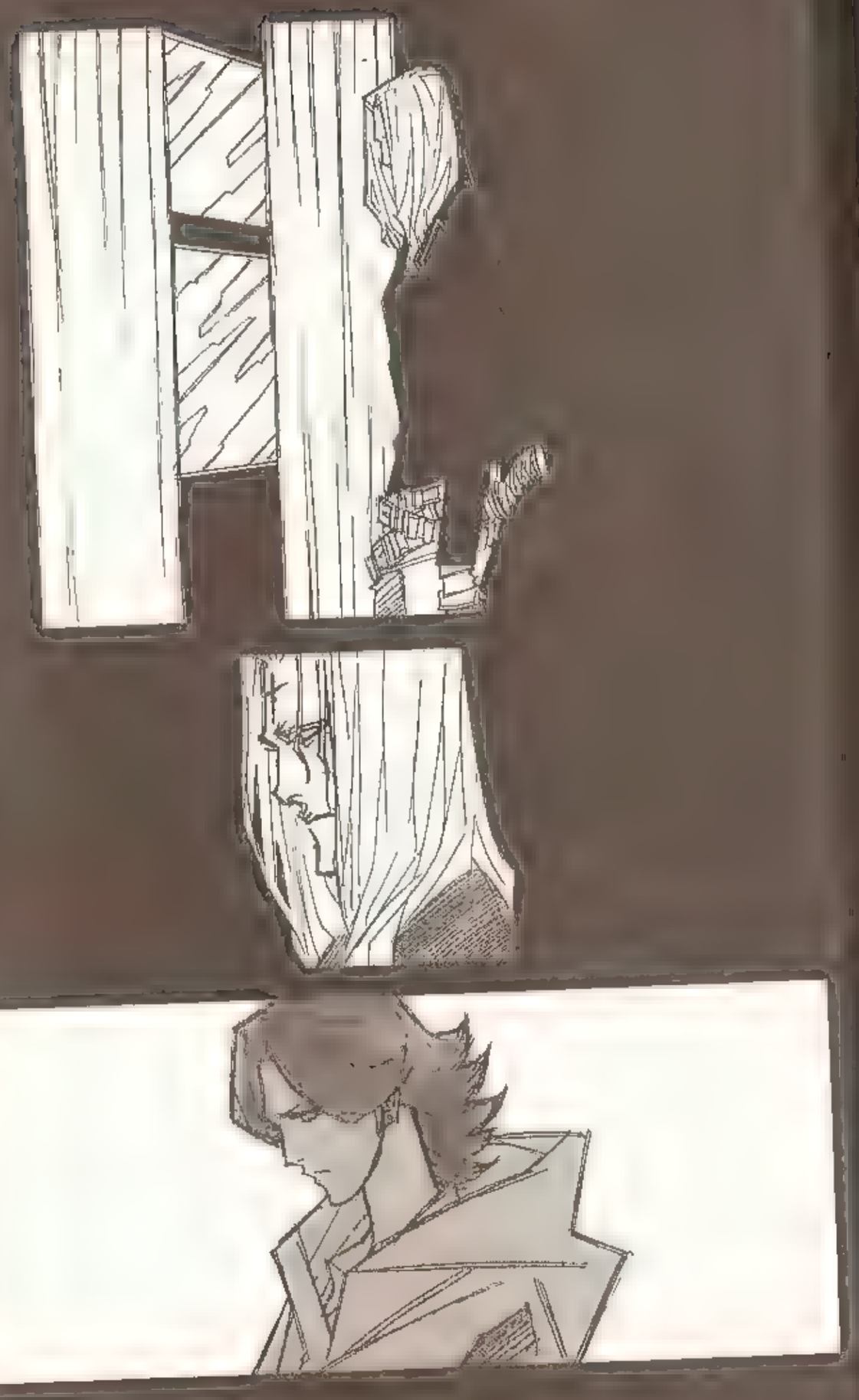
SHIT, NERA.

LOOK AT THIS LIST FONDO GAVE US.

EVERY-THING ON HERE IS FOOD FOR MOSH.

NERA?





NETRAPHIM!

WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE

GRAB

DIDN'T I WARN YOU?

WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE?

I'M WAITING

FOR THE FEAST

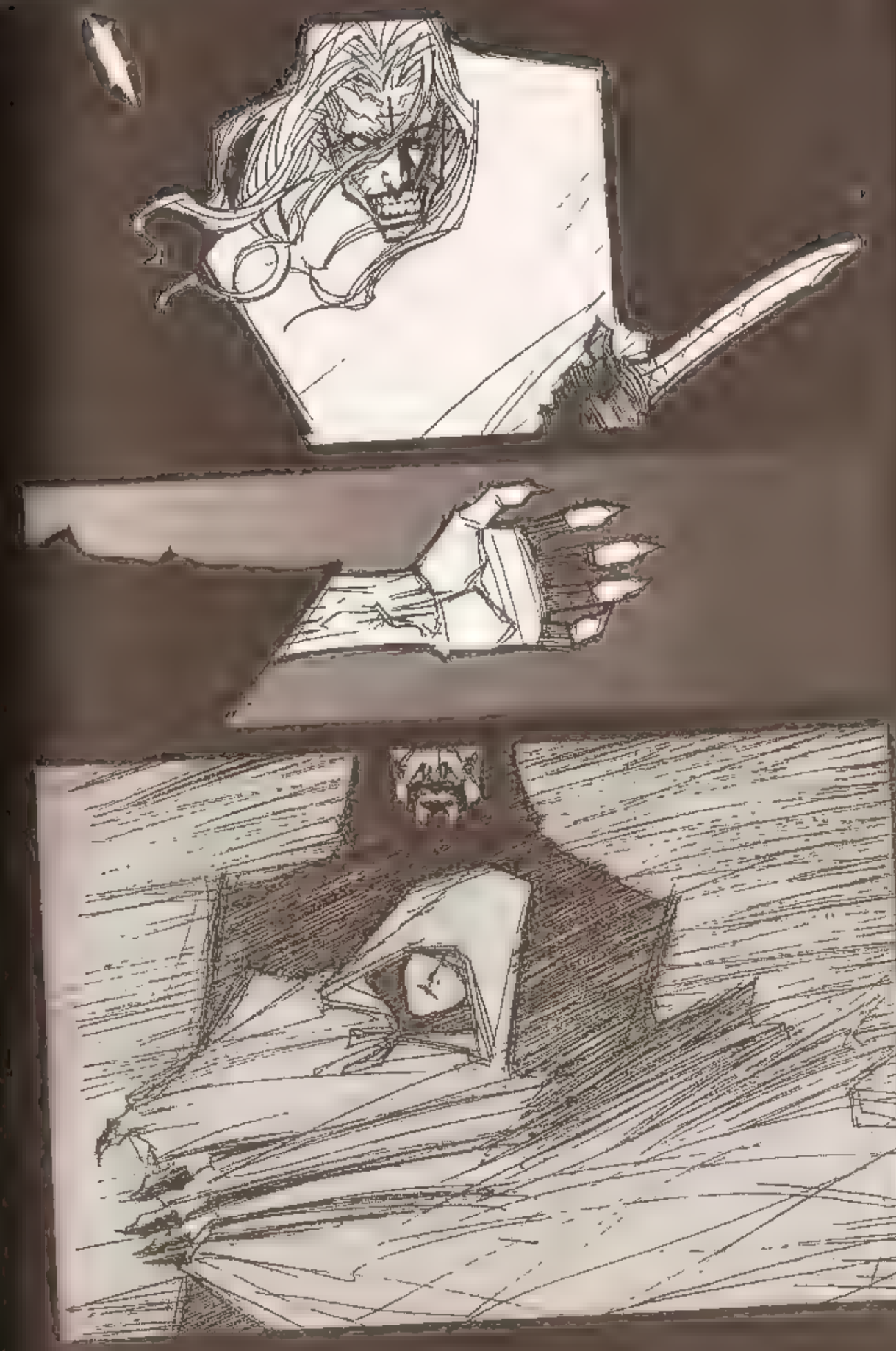
A [illegible] OF [illegible] NAME

AND IT TICKLES MY NOSE

I WON'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG FOR THE FEAST TO BEGIN!

PERHAPS

...I CAN START IT RIGHT NOW!!



DON'T BE FOOLED BY MERE RIPPLES OF PHANTASM. IVAN.

HEH HEH

I'LL BE DAMNED

CLINK

CLINK

PLEASE

LEAVE US...

PLEASE...

LOOK AT HOW SHE EXTENDS HER GRACE TO THE WRETCHED AND THE DEFORMED...

THAT IS...

THE ARROGANCE THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT HIS ANGEL

BASKING IN THE PAUSE ELISA OF HOLY MARTYRDOM.

NOW SPIT ON THAT REVOLTING ARROGANCE AND CRUSH HER WEAKENED BODY.

TEACH HER THAT SHE'S IN NO POSITION TO PITY OTHERS, IVAN.

HA HA HA

I SEE

ALL I SHOULDN'T I SPIT

OH YOU FIRST?

SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.

...THE WAY YOU TOOK PITY ON MY WRETCHED SOUL?

WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WHAT...
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
UH-OH...
WHAT'S HE DOING?
WHY IS HE CHASING US?

WOOF WOOF!

HUFF! HUFF!

HUFF... HUFF...

WOOF!

NE...NERA WILL BE LOOKING FOR US.

SHUSH!

SHUT UP, STUPID!

CREAK

CREAK CREAK

CLUNK

CLUNK

WHEW!

HUH?

EEEEEK!!

WAAGH!

EYAGH!

!

WHEW.

THIS IS THE LAST LOAD, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY, MR. IRWIN. WE'RE CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU GIVE US SUCH DEEP DISCOUNTS.

HAW HAW, DON'T MENTION IT.

HOTEL

HMM.

MR. IRWIN, I THINK YOU'VE GIVEN US...

...MORE CORN AND FLOUR THAN WE PAID FOR.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

JUST TAKE IT, OKAY?

NERA...

WELL.

I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THINGS ARE FOR YOU FOLKS.

BUT THE TOWNERS... THEY'RE GIVING ME SUCH TROUBLE THESE DAYS.

WA--

WAIT A MINUTE, MR. IRWIN!

YOU CAN'T BE SAYING THAT YOU WON'T DO BUSINESS WITH US ANY MORE?

SAM... YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL.

BUT I'M A BUSINESSMAN, AND THE TOWNERS ARE MY CUSTOMERS.

THINGS WERE QUIET FOR A WHILE..

...BUT SINCE THE NEWS OF ST. BALDLAS AND BOSSACK REACHED US..

...PEOPLE HERE'VE BEEN EXTRA SENSITIVE TO FOREIGNERS.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE.

ON A BAD DAY...

...THEY DON'T EVEN LET A STAGECOACH PASS THROUGH WINDTALE.

YOU KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS?!

IT'S DUDLEY RILING THE TOWNERS UP AGAIN!

HE'S PROBABLY LOCATED ANOTHER GOLD MINE!!

HE DOESN'T WANT FOREIGNERS COMING IN. THAT'S WHY HE'S SPREAD BAD RUMORS ABOUT THOSE TOWNS--

SO THIS TOWN WILL BE ON ED...

EVEN IF WE SETTLE HERE, YOU KNOW WE WON'T SPREAD ANY DISEASE.

YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO DUDLEY'S HANDS!

SAM...

...THAT'S ENOUGH

NO, NERA.. I DESERVE THAT. IT DOES MY CONSCIENCE GOOD TO BE SCOLDED.

MR IRWIN, DON'T TORTURE YOURSELF ABOUT US.

YOU'VE GIVEN US SO MUCH HELP ALREADY

THERE'S NO NEED FOR APOLOGIES, MR. IRWIN.

WE'RE GRATEFUL TO YOU AS IT IS.

HAW HAW.

YOUR SMILE MAKES ME FEEL EVEN WORSE.

SHIT!

HOW CAN YOU SMILE?

HUH?

WAIT A MINUTE.

HOTEL

WHERE'D THOSE TWO GO?

WHACK!

WHACK!

WHACK

WHACK!

WHACK!

HEH HEH.

NOT BAD.

HAR!

HAR!

GODDAMN FILTHY FREAKS!

SHIT.

THEIR STINK'S GOTTEN ON MY HANDS

SNIFF

PTOOIE!

DAMN APES!

I GUI… EVEN… BEAS… WANT … HAVE FUN

UCK!

LOOKING FOR SOME HOLES TO PEG?

STOP THIS!!

THAT'S ENOUGH!!

HUH?

O'NEAL!!

LET THESE MEN GO!! THIS INSTANT!!

MEN? DID I HEAR YOU SAY...

...MEN?

HEY, DID ANYONE TIE UP A COUPLE OF MEN AROUND HERE?

NOPE. ALL I SEE ARE A COUPLE OF PIGS LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO SQU'RT THEIR JUICE

HEH HEH!

HA HA HA HA!

FUCKING ASS-HOLE!!

UGH!

YOU'RE LESS THAN HUMAN!

YOU'RE THE SWINE, NOT THEM!!

COME ON, TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU NEEDED SOMEONE...

...TO PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE.

I MIGHT JUST HAVE TO BREAK...

...THAT PRETTY LITTLE NOSE OF YOURS TODAY.

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, O'NEAL.

O'NEAL, DEAR FRIEND...

SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN TO HURT MY SON RIGHT BEFORE MY POOR OLD EYES?

DUD... MR. DUDLEY.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN YOUR OFFICE!

AH, I SPENT THE NIGHT LOOKING OVER MY BOOKS.

'COURSE DIDN'T GO TO FINISH THANKS TO ALL THE NOISE YOU MADE

I'M...I'M SORRY, SIR. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU!

OHH...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR APOLOGIES.

MY, MY...

YOU JUST SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THEM *QUIETLY*.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THEY'RE NO ANIMALS!!

PERHAPS.

BUT THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY HUMAN EITHER, ARE THEY?

FATHER!

HMM.

HERE COMES THE BABYSITTER.

NERA...

SHIT!

!

YOU CALL YOURSELF A SHERIFF? YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THAT BADGE!

HOW CAN YOU JUST WATCH WITH THAT BIG GRIN ON YOUR FACE?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF PROFES-SIONAL DUTY? GODDAMMIT!

SPIT!

SLOP

!!

WELL...IF YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT THE SHERIFF'S DUTIES ENTAIL...

...I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO SHOW YOU.

STOP IT, SAM.

DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.

BUT... NERA--!!

I'M... I'M SORRY, NERA!

IF I'D GOTTEN HERE EARLIER, I COULD HAVE STOPPED THEM...

HMPH. THEY DESERVE THE BEATING THEY GOT.

THEY WERE HARASSING THE TOWN WOMEN.

IDIOTS!

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!

YOU DIS-APPEAR WITHOUT A WORD AND CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE TOWNERS?

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOOKED FOR YOU?

WHAT ... WHAT ARE YOU DOING-?!

NERA...

IS THIS HOW YOU PAY BACK...

...THE KINDNESS THE TOWNERS HAVE SHOWN US?

TING

FOOLS!! YOU SHOULD BE SORRY.

HMPH...

WHAT IDIOTS!

NERA!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT? SO YOU'RE SORRY, HUH?

HMPH!

MR. DUDLEY! YOU HEARD THAT, RIGHT?

TO BE CONTINUED...

IVAN ISAACS WILL RETURN IN

PRIEST VOLUME 13: STRAIN OF THE DISPOSSESSED

IN WHICH THE RED MEN SEEK REVENGE AGAINST THEIR BROTHER'S KILLERS, AND A WAYWARD ANGEL CONFRONTS HER PAST.